

Washington, DC -- On Tuesday, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-7), a former 3-Star Admiral, announced on the House floor that he will offer legislation that sets the end of 2007 for our redeployment from Iraq.

Below are his remarks:

"Madame Speaker, I spent 31 years in the military defending our freedom of speech. I often wondered during those years – whether in the fury of war or the challenges of peace – if Washington was thinking...debating...wisely...at length, about the best use of our national treasure...those who wear the cloth of our nation, overseas.

"I am concerned for U.S. security because of Iraq...a tragic misadventure that does not permit us to best address more important security challenges throughout this world. Don't double down on a bad military bet by using more troops; have confidence in our diplomatic ability to lead....even with Syria and Iran; set a date certain -- this year – to serve as the leverage to have the Iraqis accept the reality of the personal consequence of not assuming responsibility for their nation.

"That is why I will introduce legislation that sets the end of 2007 for our redeployment from Iraq, to serve as the catalyst for the Iraqis to assume responsibility for their country, so we can better address our strategic security interests in the world."

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. Congress.

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